(b) During the period April 1994—January 1995, the energy requirement in the country was 290326 Million Units against which the availability was 269729 Million Units which represents a shortage of 7·1 per cent. It may however be stated that the shortfall in energy during past few years have remained between 7·8 per cent. Inspite of sgnificant growth in power generation during the past few years the shortage remains on account of growth in demand for power, outstripping the growth in generation.

(c) In order to bridge the gap between demand and availability of power various measures being taken to improve the availability of power in the country include expediting the commissioning of new generating capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reduction of Transmission and Distribution losses, implementation of better demand management and energy conservation measures, arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas and promotion of private sector investment in power sector.

MOUs with private firms for power Plants

326. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have signed MOUs with private firms for setting up power plants without inviting competitive bidding;

(b) if so, whether the States are allowed to do so;

(c) if not, what action is contemplated in such matters;

(d) whether some guidelines have been issued in this regard and how the Central Government would ensure their observance by the State Governments;

(e) whether some cut off date has been prescribed for signing such MOUs;

(f) if so, what are the details and the rationale thereof; and

(g) what are the details of the MOUs signed so far and what is the amount and capacity involved in each of these MOUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (d) The policy to encourage private sector participation in power generation launched in 1991, allowed awarding power projects to private developers by the State Government through MOU route, and many states have awarded projects through MOU route. However, in the interest of transparency as well as to encourage competition, the Government of India (GOI) has advised the State Govts./UTs from time to time to adopt bidding route for awarding private power projects and also organised workshops or enhancing the capabilities of the State authorities to adopt bidding route. On 18th January, 1995, the Government of India while forwarding a set of guidelines for competitive bidding route for private power projects has intimated the State Govts./UTs that Central Electricity Authority will not entertain any future proposals which have not been processed through the procedure of competitive bidding.

(e) The letter regarding Government of India's decision was issued on 18th January, 1995. However, keeping in view the time it would take for the letter to reach all the States, the GOI requested all the State Governments/UTs to make available list of MOUs signed upto 18th February, 1995.

(f) Already replied above.

(g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Power Plants by NRIs

327. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are continuing the schemes of incentives for establishment of power plants by Non-Resident Indians;

(b) whether it is a fact that foreign investors are asking for more concessions;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the pending proposals to set up power plants in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) The policy to encourage private sector participation in power generation and distribution, which has been formulated in 1991 and is currently under implementation, is equally applicable to Indians as well as foreign investors.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The feasibility report for Wadapa Thermal Power Project (2x60 MW) in Nalgonda district submitted by M/s. Krishna Godavari Power Utilities Ltd., Visakhapatnam coal based power project (2x500 MW) submitted by M/s Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd. and proposal for setting up Simhadri TPS (2x500 MW) under state sector by APSEB are under examination in CEA. In addition, Godavari gas based thermal power project (20, MW) and Jegurupadu gas based thermal power project (235 MW) in the East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh have been cleared by CEA subject to certain conditions. The pending issue of counter guarantee for these projects will be finalised after completion of discussions on the revision of PPAs.

Ban on Azo dyes in textile industry

328. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to ban the use of toxic azo dyes in textile industry as they release carcinogenic substances;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposed ban is likely to effect export of textiles from the country; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are contemplating to maintain the quantum of exports of textiles from the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) In India, there is already a ban on the use of benzidene based dyes and salts. However, in the context of the German Government's legislation to ban import of textiles involving the use of specified azo dyes (including the benzidene based dyes) from July, 1995, the Government of India has initiated steps to review those dyes and to identify alternate permissible dyes so as to maintain the tempo of exports. Besides, the Textiles Committee, different Textile Export Promotion Councils, Textile Research Associations etc. are actively engaged in creating awareness among the textile industry and trade regarding the dyes to be used for exports of eco-friendly textiles in line with the German legislation.

Fabric production of M|s. Reliance Industries Ltd.

329. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fabrics production of M|s Reliance Industries Ltd.;